

Bee Campus USA - Portland Community College

Report on 2023

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Please describe pollinator habitat creation or enhancement projects in your community in 2023, and whether your committee hosted them or not.

We completed numerous pollinator habitat creation and enhancement projects in 2023 for a total of about 9,000 square feet at various PCC locations. At the Rock Creek Campus, our Bee Campus USA Committee hosted a planting event with the help of our grounds team and Nature For All student club. At this event, we planted about 2,400 square feet of 80 pollinator-friendly plants that were awarded to us by the Xerces society. At Rock Creek and Sylvania campuses members of our committee hosted nest cleaning and hive building events for our on-campus apiary and for traveling pollinators. The nest cleaning took place inside a high-traffic campus building to inform students of our efforts and get them involved. The hive building events were for LAT students. Also at our Rock Creek Campus, the LAT Plant Establishment and Maintenance revitalized about 2000 sq ft of mixed ornamental beds with a focus on flowering perennials of over 50 varieties.

How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance in 2023?

12

How many people (staff, volunteers, students, partners, etc.) helped with those projects?

100

How many projects benefit monarchs, milkweed, or nectar plantings?

5

How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

9000

Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance last year with pollinator benefit in mind.

- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- Orchard
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species

- Meadow
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Herb garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- School garden



Planting a new pollinator habitat at Rock Creek Campus.

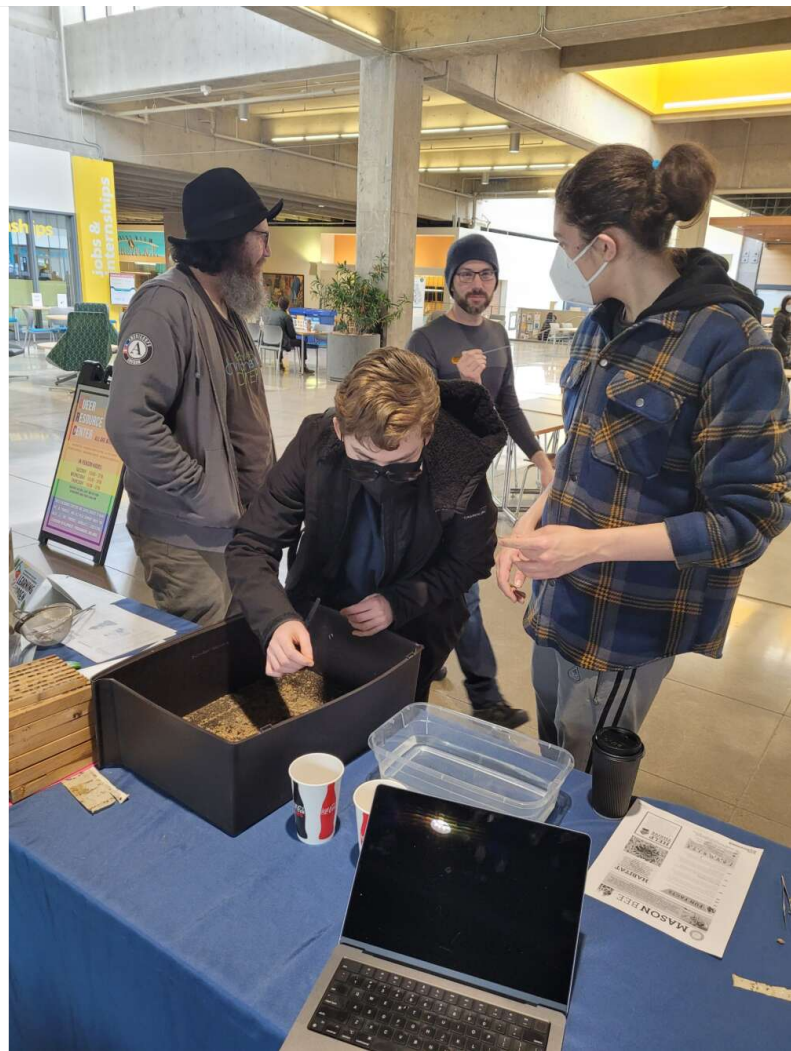


Photo of an event at Sylvania Campus to educate students on cleaning the mason bee habitats.

Education & Outreach

Please describe pollinator conservation events or outreach activities in your community in 2023, indicating whether your committee hosted them or not.

We had a great year of education and outreach events with eighteen different events with half of them being committee-hosted. During Earth Week in April, our committee hosted a variety of pollinator-specific events. All of the five learning gardens hosted pollinator-friendly seed giveaways, with a total of about 100 seed packets given away. We also hosted a planting party at Cascade Campus with about 15 students helping out in the garden. For the third year, we hosted Pollinator Art-A-Palooza where 16 student artists posted their pollinator-themed artwork at our Sylvania Campus as well as online for virtual viewing. For Earth Week, PCC's four main libraries displayed materials on pollinators that are so important for our planet including bees, butterflies, bats and beneficial insects. On display were books, handouts, colorful visuals and a wide variety of free resources and educational materials for faculty, staff and students. We are so grateful for our continued partnership with Washington County Master Gardener Association (WCMGA) on our committee, who hosted many events at our Rock Creek Campus with over 400 attendees throughout the year. In June, they hosted the annual "Meet the Mason Bees...and some of their closest friends" a family friendly event with hands-on bee-related activities for both native and non-native honey bees. Held in the Rock Creek garden, volunteers managed different booths with educational and fun activities about bees. Oregon Bee Atlas volunteers had a display of pinned native bee specimens as well as information and live "chilled" drones that attendees could hold. There were OBA members out in the garden with nets, vials and magnifying glasses for 'Catch-Observe & Release'. Participants were able to see live bees up close before releasing them back to the garden. This event had about 150 attendees. In July, they hosted the "WCMGA Open Garden: Invertebrates & Vertebrates" event where 250 attendees participated in hands-on activities for the whole family that celebrate invertebrates and vertebrates. Included Xerces Society Ambassadors with bee-related activities, Oregon Ag in the Classroom with activities and information on honey bees, and lots of information and giveaways about Mason Bees.

How many pollinator-related events or outreach activities did you host or help with in 2023 (in total)?

18

How many people attended those events (in total)?

355

Number of permanent interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed to date?

20

Number of temporary interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed in 2023?

10



Meet the Mason Bees & Friends event in June 2023.



Family Garden Event at the Rock Creek Learning garden.



New sign installed on the NW corner of Rock Creek campus to signify the new habitat for pollinators.

Curriculum, Continuing Education, & Service Learning

Please describe the curriculum your campus engaged in 2023, indicating whether it was part of a for-credit course or continuing education.

The Rock Creek Campus held fourteen for-credit Landscape and Technology (LAT) courses throughout the year that included bee-friendly habitat evaluations, maintenance techniques, effects of pesticides and general beekeeping teachings. These courses included course subjects like Beekeeping, Sustainable Landscaping, and Plant Establishment

and Maintenance. In total, these courses had 177 students. WCMGA hosted their annual “Bees in Your Garden” class where about 20 attendees learned how to distinguish bees from wasps and flies; what our native bees need in terms of shelter, food, and nesting areas; what you can do to provide habitat for native bees in the garden. This class was hosted at the Rock Creek Campus with a focus on educating the community. Additionally, there was a Beekeeping Backyard Beginning community education form that fills up each term. This continuing education course had 100 students throughout the year.

How many of your for-credit courses included pollinator-related information in 2023?

14

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

177

How many of your continuing education courses included pollinator-related information in 2023?

4

How many participants attended those courses?

100

How many service-learning projects did your campus host and/or support to enhance pollinator habitat on- and off- campus?

8

How many students participated in service-learning projects in 2023 to enhance pollinator habitat on or off-campus?

100

Please describe the service-learning projects your students were engaged in 2023, indicating which, if any, were associated with a course.

There were various service-learning projects that were connected with courses in 2023. There was a beehive stand construction event where nine Landscape and Technology (LAT) students built three hive stands to protect them from predators. There were also three honey harvesting events, two of which were a part of an LAT Beekeeping course where students harvested a total of 90 pounds of honey from our apiary flow hives. This honey was given to the students who participated as well as given away to the campus community. In November, ten LAT Sustainable Landscaping students participated in native hedgerow planting. This students learned about the importance of these native species and planted 40 shrubs and over ~2400 sq ft as part of the Xerces Hedgerow Habitat Grant.



Native Hedgerow Planting with LAT 273 class in November 2023.



Pollinator garden planting event with LAT 102 course. These students planted about 680 sq ft with various natives and non native perennials.

Policies & Practices

Please describe actions taken to make pest management more pollinator-friendly.

At the college we maintained our IPM plan as well as updated it in 2023. We continued to reduce our dependence on pesticides college-wide. To that end, no neonicotinoids were used on the campus grounds and no pesticides were used near any storm water facilities or pollinator friendly areas on college properties. We continue to rely on our Grounds team who perform countless hours of mechanical, hand weeding and chip placement to reduce weeds. Also, we are reducing our use of rodenticides, opting for snap traps where applicable. Each of our five learning gardens are champions in maintaining the college's IPM plan and implement their own strategies to further these efforts. Each garden maintains organic practices including hand pulling of weeds, companion planting and no spray pest management efforts to support pollinator health.

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?

The City of Portland has a strong IPM plan that we follow and have practices above and beyond their requirements.

Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?

The committee did not participate this year.

Please check actions you have taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly.

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Only use pesticides as a last resort within the IPM plan
- Avoided use of pesticides in public sites containing designated pollinator habitat or other sensitive features (except when targeted use is deemed the best option for invasive or noxious weed, insect or disease management)
- Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds
- Restricted pesticides used to organic pesticides on city or campus grounds
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds using “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants using “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Our learning garden coordinators have shared that it is important to acknowledge the tradeoffs when we prioritize organic, pesticide free gardening, which can reduce harvest production. However in the grand scheme of things, all recognize that ecological health is the priority and worth the tradeoff.



Pesticide free zone signage on Sylvania Campus to highlight our IPM plan.



A photo of some of our committee members at a planting party in October 2023.

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

https://www.pcc.edu/facilities-management/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2019/01/integrated-pest-management_Oct_2015.pdf

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.pcc.edu/sustainability/on-campus/rock-creek/bees/sustainability@pcc.edu>

<https://www.instagram.com/pcclandscapetechnology/?hl=en>